

REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

DATE: December 17, 2015

CONTACT: Gary Miller (5-8318)

PURPOSE: For Information – EPA Dive Team Inspection

DEADLINE DATE: N/A

BACKGROUND:

The San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site is situated east of the City of Houston along I-10 and once operated as a paper mill pulp disposal site. The pits were built in the mid-1960s along the banks of the San Jacinto River for disposal of pulp wastes containing dioxins. The former waste pits are currently partially submerged due to subsidence. In 2008, the site was added to the National Priorities List and in 2009, EPA issued an order to International Paper Company and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation, the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs), to conduct a site investigation. A removal action was also completed by the PRP's in July 2011 to install a temporary armor cap over the impoundments.

CURRENT STATUS:

- EPA dive team cap inspection completed Wednesday 12/9 & Thursday 12/10/15.
- Found gap in armor cap in Northwest area (see attached figure).
- Gap area unknown, but at least 17-feet across.

TECHNICAL CONCERNS:

- Sampling in vicinity prior to cap installation showed dioxin as high as 20,000 ppt.
- Bathymetric surveys during inspections did not indicate any cap deficiencies. Inspections initially done quarterly & now done twice per year. No indication of subsidence. Last semi-annual inspection performed July 2015.
- Probing done following construction in 2011 found design 1-foot minimum cap thickness in gap area.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

- Potential on-going release of dioxins/furans to San Jacinto River.

REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Verbally notified PRPs 12/11/15 regarding gap in cap and need to repair. Notified PRPs in writing 11/16/15 to submit a repair plan in accordance with Operation, Monitoring & Maintenance plan.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS/OUTREACH:

- Fact sheet under development to notify community on inspection finding & repair plans.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Expect draft repair plan early next week.
- Repair cap as soon as possible.
- Sample sediment in gap area.
- Sample cap repair area during pore water sampling - January 2016.
- Develop enhanced inspection plan.

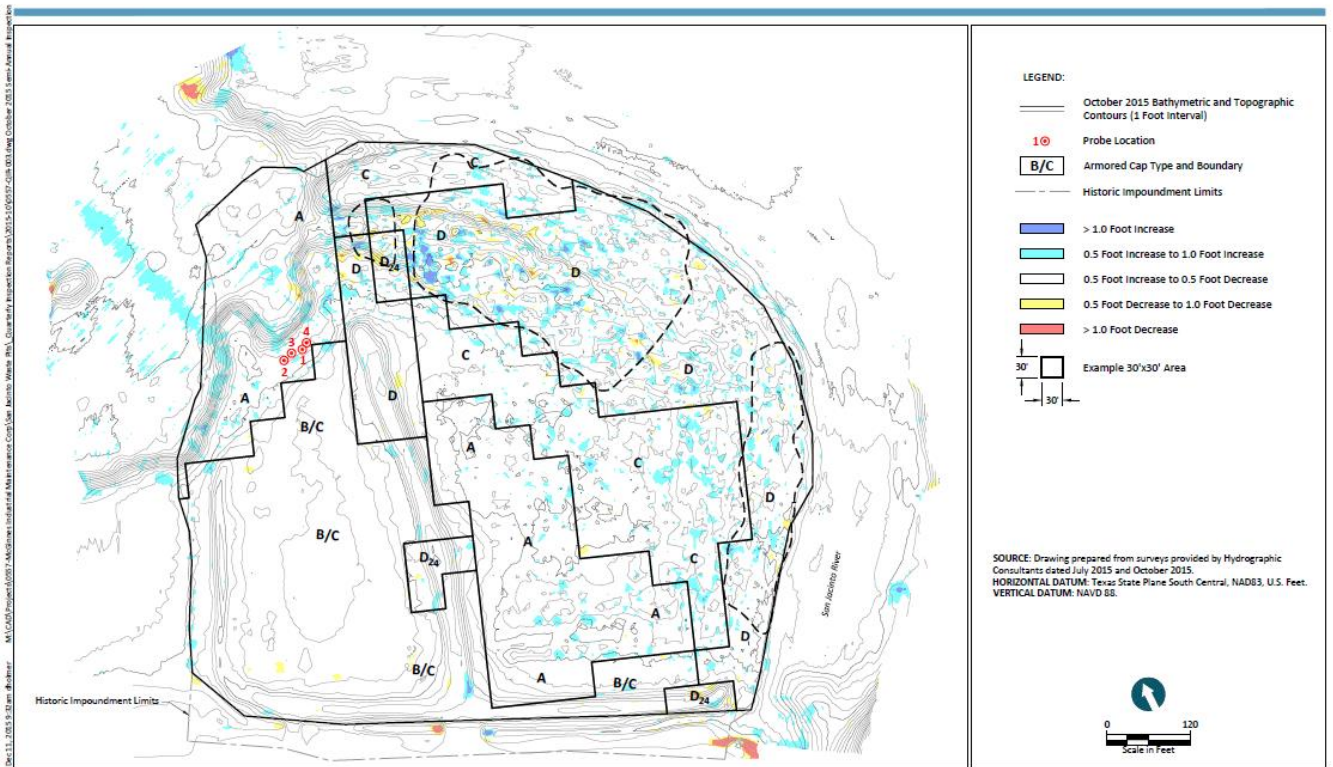


Figure 3
October 2015 Semi-Annual Inspection
Post TCRA Semi-Annual Inspection (October 2015)
San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site